

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction



Remember Our Troops

# P.R.I.D.E.

Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

AT

# WORK



## National Correctional Officers Week

Each and every day, as Connecticut's correctional professionals, your unwavering commitment to a difficult and dangerous occupation ensures the safety of the public and fellow staff and secures a humane environment for offenders.

It is with immense PRIDE and with deep gratitude that I salute our staff during National Correctional Officer Week. Your dedication to duty year round continues to keep Connecticut safe and for that, I and the citizens of our state, say thank you. I am extremely appreciative for the honor of being your Commissioner and I look forward with continued confidence to working with you as we meet and conquer future challenges.

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### Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration

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## Citizen Soldier Returns

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times", wrote Charles Dickens in his classic "A Tale of Two Cities". That same sentiment was echoed by State School Teacher Valerie Smith of Corrigan-Radgowski CC, while reflecting on her recent tour of duty in Iraq. Smith said her "deployment was largely positive", but recalls the stress associated with caring for wounded soldiers and sleeping lightly just in case there was a mortar or rocket attack.

Smith, a Major in the Army National Guard, assigned to the 118<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion out of Newington spent three days shy of one year at her post just north of Baghdad. She returned several weeks ago much to the delight of her husband and three young children. She said that her husband learned to play multiple roles while she served in the Iraqi desert. "He was awesome, but everything in my house was moved around," she said with a laugh.

Smith is no stranger to transatlantic journeys having come to the United States from Wales at the age of 19. She occasionally visits her parents who still live in the country whose entire population is less than that of Connecticut.

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About and for  
correctional  
professionals

April 24 -  
May 7, 2005

# Soldier Returns, Cont'd



(Above) Valerie Smith of Corrigan-Radgowski CI in Iraq

Instead of getting the kids ready for school or playing the part of chauffeur, Smith's responsibility shifted to the 275 soldiers that make up her unit. Her primary duty was to coordinate medical services and logistical medical support for 27 sites located between the Turkish and Kuwaiti borders.

Like many who have returned before her, Smith said the media shows mostly the negative side of the equation. She said she saw a marked improvement in the everyday lives of the people there. "Water and electricity has been restored to many areas already." She said that her encounters with the locals were rewarding.

In addition to instructing people in basic preventive medical care and hygiene, she passed out school supplies to always eager students. "This is the first time in decades that the Iraqis have a chance to improve their future." However, she does note that the shadow of the once powerful dictator still looms large. She completed her thought by stating, "We take so much for granted."

"When you begin to feel sorry for yourself, you need to reflect on how difficult it was for the troops who were first on the scene," Smith humbly said. They had to contend with many more obstacles and hardships. "They slept in the desert and ate nothing but MREs' (Meals Ready to Eat), and had limited contact with folks back home. She explains that the best gift to send troops stationed there now is prepaid phone cards. There are phones available, but it is very expensive."

Smith expressed her deepest appreciation and gratitude to the people of Connecticut and her colleagues in USD #1 and Corrigan-Radgowski. "No soldier from Connecticut was ever wanting for anything, everyone has been so supportive."

Although a loud cheer went up when her flight from the Middle-East touched down on American soil, she said she and her colleagues became rather emotional when they received a police escort back into the Nutmeg State.

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## Pride. *AT* Work

for  
April 24 - May 7,  
2005

Distributed  
bi-weekly to 7,000  
staff and via the internet  
throughout  
Connecticut and the  
nation by the Depart-  
ment of Correction  
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Wethersfield, CT 06109

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# Mayoral Visit

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Warden Moises Gonzalez and the staff of Manson Youth Institution were honored to have Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez visit the facility. He spoke to 50 youth from the city of Hartford that are currently incarcerated at the facility. Mayor Perez's message was one of hope. He stressed that he has not forgotten them and that help awaits them once they return to his city. Mayor Perez wanted to hear what type of help the prisoners needed once they are released in order to help them succeed at achieving their dreams. He told them, "Dream big and don't ever give up on your dreams." Perez, a former gang member, talked about his own life and how it took him 10 years after high school before he decided to go to college. He talked about his family and how some of them were caught up in drugs and ended up in the prison system. The Mayor offered the youth a chance to speak about what obstacles they would potentially face upon release and what resources the city could provide to those trying to successfully reintegrate back into society. Many of the youth complained about racial profiling and harassment by police. The Mayor responded by saying, "If you are taking care of business right, the chances of you being harassed are reduced. But if you are hanging out, always in the wrong place at the wrong time, not taking care of your business correctly, then you have a greater likelihood of being questioned by police." "I owe every citizen in Hartford the same protection and services. I have elderly residents and women with young children who are complaining about groups of kids hanging around and causing trouble on the street corners. So, when they call police to patrol those areas, the police must respond. They have a right to be able to walk down the streets of Hartford without being harassed by kids with nothing better to do than "hang out" and "cause trouble."

Eric Crawford, Violence Prevention Specialist for the Hartford Board of Education, joined Mayor Perez at the facility and encouraged the youth to think of a plan for their life after incarceration. He told them to expect rejection, but to not give up. Even he had to go on ten job interviews before he landed a decent job and he had a college degree. Before ending the session, Mayor Perez added these words of wisdom, "Failure is a stranger to no one, but don't let that failure define you."

## Soldier Returns, Cont'd

Smith is currently on leave and expects to be back at work sometime in the fall, after she becomes reacquainted with her surroundings. "I am taking things slow." She has been with the Department for about 11 years and said that her experience in corrections served her well in dealing with a diverse population. She said because of the insurgent threat you must temper any degree of trust with a healthy dose of skepticism.

It is apparent that the parents of this exceptional patriot were somewhat prophetic when naming their daughter. "Valerie" means one who is strong who displays valor.



(L-R) Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez Eric Crawford and Warden Moises Gonzalez



# Learning Journey

Pride at Work, April 24 - May 7, 2005,  
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Springtime is usually when college students from New England head south for some fun in the sun. But, for some Criminal Justice majors from Teikyo Post University and Westfield State College, Corrections, not Cancun was on the calendar for the month of April.

Accompanied by Professor David Patterson, the students from Teikyo Post toured the McDougall-Walker and Osborn institutions to compare and contrast the two facilities that were built more than 30 years apart. Counselor Supervisor Gary Wright led the group which toured industries, the school and a working housing unit. The group heard about the facility from the perspective of inmates as three men spoke to the group about life behind bars.

The students then got a taste of Osborn CI as they were escorted throughout the facility by Counselor William Murphy. Following the tours, many students noted how the inmate's attitudes reflected their surroundings. They felt that Osborn was more like the image that they had of prison.

Meanwhile, at Westfield State College in Massachusetts, about 90 students attended a presentation given by Major Esther Torres and Counselor Supervisor Brian Bradway. At the invitation of Professor Steven Smith, the Northern CI staff spoke about "Managing Troublesome Inmates" detailing the facility's "Phase Program". Currently, Westfield has more than 600 students enrolled in the Criminal Justice Program.



Major Ester Torres and Counselor Supervisor Brian Bradway  
addressing Westfield College students

## Opening

The District of Columbia is looking for candidates to fill a position of Director of the Department of Correction, with a current salary cap of \$140,000. Those interested should submit a cover letter addressing their requirements to:

Mr. Kenyatta L. Uzzell  
Executive Recruitment Manager  
D.C. Office of Personnel  
Office of the Director  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW 300S  
Washington, DC 2001 or via email at:  
Kenyatta.Uzzell @dc.gov

## Reunion

The original staff of the Union Avenue Detention Center are planning a reunion this summer. Anyone wishing to attend or knows the whereabouts of any staff please contact the following: Secretary Kathy Thomas at 203.389.1554, Lt. Marie Barnes at 203.250.2665 or Lt. Beverly Knox at 203.789.7112.



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# The Extra Mile

Pride at Work, March 27- April 9, 2005  
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On Wednesday, March 23, 2005, while traveling to work at Corrigan-Radgowski CI during a snowstorm, Correction Officer Damion Doran lost control of his vehicle on the slippery surface and spun off the road, hitting a tree. After calling the facility to report to his supervisor, Officer Doran noticed an accident just down the road. Upon approaching the scene to render assistance, he noticed that a fellow staff member, Jared Dolphin, had also lost



Damion Doran of CRCC

control on the icy pavement. Together, Officers Doran and Dolphin, waited for a tow truck to pull Officer Doran's vehicle, which was unoperable, from the roadside. The two then headed to the facility to work their scheduled shifts. In addition, Officer Doran worked an additional shift to provide coverage. Major Anthony Coletti stated that "They are a credit to this facility and to the Department."



Jared Dolphin of CRCC

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## Did you know?

*Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This week's issue was submitted by Sam Kotch who can be reached at 860-739-2602. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860-692-7554.*



Residential electricity use started in Connecticut around 1917. At that time rates were high but decreasing. Residential use of electricity was mainly for lighting. Also, in the 1900's technology introduced the thing that everyone uses – the refrigerator. Mass production started after World War II, icemakers and auto-defrost were introduced in the 1950's. In the 1970's the green refrigerators and gold refrigerators were the most inefficient. The refrigerator is still the #1 energy user in most homes today. Energy use has more than doubled since the late 1940's and so has the average house size. In the 1940's the average single-family house was 900 square feet compared to 2,200 in the 1990's. This would lead you to believe we have more stuff (light, AC, electronics, appliances, pools, and furnace motors) which is a very large "hidden" load on your energy bill.

Continued on Page 6, Did you know?

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## Around the cell block

**Washington-** The U.S. prison population, already the largest in the world, grew by 2.1-million last year, with one in every 138 citizens behind bars.

**Florida-** A new independent commission on prison abuse in America has been told that stun guns, rubber bullets and pepper spray are being used to abuse inmates.

**Australia-** An incarcerated self-proclaimed witch has filed a complaint against the Salvation Army claiming their teaching of Christianity constitutes a danger to his health.

**New Mexico-** The head of a non-profit group that supplies Bibles for inmates has been charged with bigamy.

# Vocational Instructor of the Year

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Superintendent of Schools William Barber announced today that Barry Dufault has been chosen as the Unified School District #1, Vocational Instructor of the Year. Mr. Dufault, a ten year veteran, is a Correctional Vocational Instructor in Culinary Arts at Corrigan-Radgowski CC.

Mr. Dufault is a graduate of Johnson and Wales University and New Hampshire College. Melissa Stubbs, Barry's Principal, praised him for his "outstanding record of successfully graduating between 35-50 students a year with certificates of completion. All students leave his program with a comprehensive portfolio demonstrating their proficiency in the field. Many of his students have returned to society and have secured positions in the culinary arts field or established their own food service businesses."

Mr. Barber noted "Barry is an excellent role model for both staff and inmates through his commitment to his work. Mr. Dufault maintains a positive and effective working relationship with his peers and is extremely approachable and willing to help out whenever possible. He has successfully participated in many of the Corrigan-Radgowski CC, Department of Correction and Unified School District #1 catered functions."

Barry is a member of the American Culinary Federation and the Correctional Education Association. He was honored at the 1999 Correctional Education Association International conference as the Region 1 Teacher of the Year.



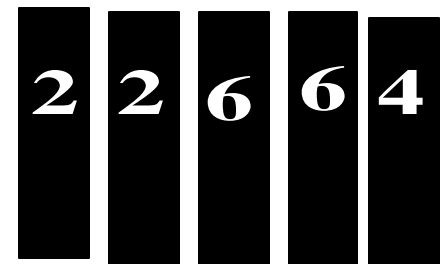
Barry Dufault addresses a class at  
Corrigan-Radgowski CC

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## Did you know?, Cont'd

Energy use from miscellaneous sources has been growing at close to 5% since 1976 and will account for 90% of residential growth going forward into the future. What are the miscellaneous things in the house that are always on? Your television, VCR, DVD, microwave, cordless phone, most new appliances built after the late 1970's, and your electric toothbrush. A luxury item that uses a lot of energy is a 20-gallon aquarium = 6,000 kWh annually. What can we do to save? Lighting is 30% of the average home's use which makes it the biggest savings opportunity if every household in the U.S. replaced one light with an energy star qualified compact fluorescent light bulb. It would prevent enough pollution from the generation of energy to equal removing one million cars from the road annually. So take a look around your home and see if you can save any money for yourself. Any questions about energy, Star Products at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) and 1-800-WISE-USE for information on conservation programs.

**Supervised  
Population  
on  
May 4, 2005**



On May 4, 2004 the population was  
22,796



# Helping Hand

Pride at Work, March 27 - April 9, 2005

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On April 15, 2005 Warden John Sieminski and the staff of MacDougall-Walker CI gathered to say good bye to Correction Officer Hector Rodriguez who left the Department on a medical retirement. Correction Officer Rodriguez has been an employee of the Department of Correction for the past 9 years. His fellow colleagues know him as an individual who carries himself as a professional and treats his co-workers with respect and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Warden Sieminski states that "During his time of need, his fellow brothers and sisters stepped up to help him out." Staff at MWCI came together and donated 150 days so he would be able to retire with ten years and full medical benefits, as well as collecting \$1,400 to help financially. The staff at MWCI want C/O Rodriguez to know that they are aware of the difficult road he has ahead and that they will always be there for him.



## U.S. Prison Population Soars, but not in Connecticut

America's prison population, which is already the largest in the world, grew by about 900 inmates a week in 2004, reaching a new record of 2.1-million residents behind bars by last June 30<sup>th</sup>. The 2.3 percent increase translated into one out of every 138 U.S. citizens being incarcerated. But in Connecticut the story is vastly different. The state is one of just 12 that reported a drop in its offender population. For the year ending December 2004, Connecticut's prisons and jails recorded a 2.5 percent decrease. "The continuing decline in our inmate population is a testament not only to the dedication of our staff in promoting successful community reintegration but also signifies the benefit of the increasing collaboration between the branches of government and state agencies in addressing this issue," said Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz. The Bureau of Justice Statistics had reported last year, that as of December 30, 2003, Connecticut had led the nation with a 4.2 percent reduction in its population. The decrease in population has already permitted the closing of housing units at both Webster CI and at Gates CI, thus providing the redeployment of staff.

## MVP's:

Adorno, Victor	CO	HCC
Arcouette, Ned	CC	OCI
Barquin, Candace	CO	HCC
Bargo, Eddie	CO	BCC
Brooks, Justin	CO	HCC
Brown, Duane	CO	McWCI
Carucci, Ralph	CFSS III	McWCI
Casey, Joseph	Lt	NCI
Cay, Edwin	CO	McWCI
Ciampi, Christopher	CO	HCC
Clark, Robert	CC	McWCI
Croyle, Michael	CTO	McWCI
Deberry, Julius	CO	HCC
DiBiasi, Tim	Electronic Tech	OCI
Dufour, Vernon	CO	HCC
Dugan, James	Capt	McWCI
Fargo, Jeff	CC	NCI
Farken, Eric	CO	HCC
Fisher, Michael	Lt	McWCI
Guzie, Melissa	OA	NCI
Hardy, Rich	Electrician	OCI
Hill-Williams, Paulette	CO	McWCI
Jarzabek, Joseph	CO	HCC
Kay, John	CC	NCI
Lombardo, Lyn	CTO	NCI
Lorch, Richard	Lt	UConn
Nones, Lourdes	CC	HCC
Pelletier, Dana	CO	HCC
Panaia, Bruce	Plumber	OCI
Petit, Chester	Electronics Tech	OCI
Pioggia, Lou	Electronic Tech	OCI
Riccitelli, Joseph	CO	HCC
Sakalowski, Gerald	Electronics Tech	OCI
Sirois, Michael	Maint Supv	OCI
Stevenson, John	Electrician	OCI
Stoodley, Wendy	PPO	OCI
Street, James	HVAC Tech	OCI
Suse, Mark	CS	NCI
Thibadeau, Heather	SST	NCI
Trapp, Ron	HVAC Tech	OCI
Winslow, Russell	CO	HCC
Wojcik, David	CO	HCC
Wright, Gary	CS	McWCI
Zimmitti, Gino	CO	McWCI
Zuccalo, James	CTO	NCI